

American—a Kansan—who came within inches of giving his life in the service of his country, but who has made an unthinkable yet not unbelievable recovery.

I first met Spring Hill native Army Sergeant Zeke Crozier 2 years ago. He was with the 158th Aviation Regiment out of Gardner, Kansas, and he was set to deploy to Afghanistan. After being in Afghanistan for only 41 days, the Chinook helicopter Sergeant Crozier was flying in crashed violently, and he suffered a severe traumatic brain injury.

Defying all odds, Sergeant Crozier has made a miraculous recovery, and even walked into my district office in Overland Park, Kansas, yesterday. Sergeant Crozier's recovery efforts are inspirational. They are also a reminder that we must always keep our commitment to our Nation's veterans. There are over 530,000 veterans benefit cases on backlog at the VA. This is unacceptable to me and to the men and women willing to serve our country bravely and honorably, especially those that now need our help in return.

To Sergeant Crozier and to all those who have served, a grateful Nation thanks you for your sacrifice.

NATIVE HAWAIIAN EDUCATION ACT

(Ms. GABBARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, in the coming days, we will soon be taking up H.R. 5, the Student Success Act, which is a long overdue reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. I'm rising today to speak about the need to include in this reauthorization the Native Hawaiian Education Act. I've introduced H.R. 2287, which does just this. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure its passage.

Last week, when I was in Hawaii, I had the chance to meet with parents and educators in the Native Hawaiian Education community on the islands of Kauai, Maui, and Molokai. I heard from them about the firsthand successes of this program, which has been in place since 1988.

Education is, by far, the best investment that we can make in our economy and in our future. We are empowering and educating the next generation in communities that have largely been underserved, while at the same time preserving rich and unique culture, language, and values of our native people. The Native Hawaiian Education Act has been serving our kids for the last 25 years. It's critical that these innovative programs continue.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the NHEA and other programs that can enable and empower our underserved communities to thrive.

STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATES

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. I rise today to address the recent doubling of interest rates on federally backed, needs-based student loans. Students deserve access, not obstacles, to higher education. These rate hikes will make college less affordable at a time when we should be encouraging, not discouraging, people to seek higher education opportunities to grow our economy and to create jobs. But due to House Republicans' failure to act, the interest rate on college loans has doubled from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent for some 7.4 million students.

In these tough economic times, Democrats understand we should be making every effort possible to increase access to higher education for all Americans. There is no time left. We need to act now to reverse the rate hike and keep student loan interest rates low so more Americans can have a fair shot at a college education.

MAJOR LEAGUE SPORTS TEAMS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PUBLIC

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, in 1995, former Washington Bullets owner Abe Pollin announced that he would be changing the name of the Washington Bullets to the Washington Wizards. The change did not happen overnight, nor was everyone happy about it. But Mr. Pollin knew it was the right thing to do. And he did it successfully. Given the high homicide and crime rate in the early 1990s in Washington, D.C., Mr. Pollin became increasingly concerned about the Bullets' association with violence. Finally, when Mr. Pollin's close friend, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, was assassinated in November 1995, he made the final decision.

Mr. Dan Snyder, owner of the Washington Redskins, may never come to the realization that is so evident to us all in the 21st century—that the term “redskins” is racist, demeaning, derogatory, and offensive to Native Americans. But I stand today, once again, to make this appeal to Mr. Snyder. I am thankful for Mr. Pollin's brave decision to change the Bullets' name, and I urge Mr. Snyder to have the courage to do the same. Change the name of your football franchise.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mr. CARTWRIGHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, the time has come for this House to address comprehensive immigration reform. If the Senate can fashion a bipartisan bill, we can too.

Follow the money. Bringing 11 million people out of the shadows would increase our gross domestic product by \$832 billion over 10 years. Follow the money. The CBO calculates that the Senate bill will cut the deficit by \$197 billion over 10 years. What is not to like about that?

The plan that passed the Senate would strengthen our borders, crack down on employers who knowingly hire undocumented workers, and let those who want to earn their citizenship do just that.

Mr. Speaker, if the Senate can do it, we can do it too.

□ 1230

STUDENT LOANS

(Ms. HANABUSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, I am certain that during this past district work week you were asked, as I was: “What about the student loans?” What people were asking was: “What are you doing in Congress about the rates that are going to double on July 1?”

Let's review what we know, Mr. Speaker. We know that there are 7.4 million students that are affected. The rates are doubling from 3.4 to 6.8 percent, and this means \$1,000 more in debt. We know that a college education can mean about \$1 million more in future earnings over a lifetime. We know that we, as a country, need to build up our graduates to continue to be competitive. We also know that 45 percent of Americans hold student loan debt.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to act now for America's future.

STUDENT LOANS

(Mr. MURPHY of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to echo the sentiments of many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle regarding the urgency to fix the student loan interest rate hike that took place last Monday.

The inability of Congress to come together and compromise on behalf of America's students is embarrassing. Doubling interest rates makes college less affordable, and the increased debt burden threatens the middle class and harms our economy.

Recent graduates who should be putting away money for their first home or saving up to start their own business are instead spending upwards of \$500 per month paying back loans for their college education. Recent Florida graduates left college with student loan debt equal to 54 percent of their annual income.

Just this Monday, I heard the concerns of students in my district on how this debt will impact their future. Some students are even considering dropping out of college.